What Is Linux?

A free operating system you can try today

What it is

Linux is a free, open-source operating system, like Windows or macOS. Anyone may read, share and improve its code.

Distributions

A distribution (distro) packs Linux for everyday use. Popular beginner choices are Linux Mint, Ubuntu and Fedora.

Desktop

You get a desktop with windows, menus and a web browser. Linux Mint's Cinnamon desktop looks a lot like Windows.

Why people use it

It is free, it often runs well on older computers, and you control updates and privacy settings.

What you can do

Browse the web, write documents with LibreOffice, edit photos, program, and use thousands of free apps.

Good to know

Some programs only run on Windows or macOS. Check that the apps you need work or have a Linux alternative.

Tip: You can try Linux from a USB stick without changing your computer.

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